

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR  
1957

---

J. W. Lobban. M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR  
1957

---

J. W. Lobban. M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

# COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

## HEALTH COMMITTEE

His Worship The Mayor

(ALDERMAN H. DAWSON, J.P.)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. GARDNER

Deputy Chairman:

ALDERMAN MRS. MELVILLE, J.P.

Aldermen:

J. MILLER

J. OATES

(Ex-officio Chairman of Finance Committee)

H. PLATT, J.P.

(Ex-officio Chairman of General Purposes Committee)

H. D. SHAKESHAFT

MRS. E. WARD

Councillors:

MRS. L. BAKER

DR. R.W.L. PEARSON

MRS. A.L. CROMBLEHOLME

R. PILKINGTON

S.V. GALLARD

MRS. F. GARDNER

MISS B. JACKSON

Non-Council Members:

MRS. A. CAPPER

MRS. P. ROBERTS (resigned  
18.7.57)

MRS. R. GILL (Appointed  
4.12.57)

MR. B. VAN ENGEL (appointed  
4.12.57)

DR. D.O. HUGHES

MRS. M. MUIR

MRS. E. VENABLES (appointed  
11.9.57)

## INDEX

Administrative Staff	v	Food Unsound	49.50.51
Air Pollution	40.41.42	Food premises inspection	47.48.49
Ambulance Service	26.27.28	Food Stuffs in shops	50
Animal Feeding Meat -		Foot & Mouth Disease -	
Registrations	54	inspection	53
Ante-natal care -		Outbreak	21
Toxaemia	21	Gas and Air Analgesia	1
Ante-natal Clinics	15	General Rate	1
Ante-natal Relaxation Classes	16	General Statistics	1
Area of Borough	1		
		Hairdressers	44
Barbers and Hairdressers	44	Health Committee	ii
B.C.G. Vaccination	30	Health Visiting	22.29
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	21	Home Nursing	22.23
Birkenhead and Wirral Moral		Housing and Environmental	
Welfare Association	19	Hygiene	35
Birkenhead Mothers' Welfare		Houses, number of	1
Clinic	19	inspection and repair	35
Births	1	legal proceedings	36
Birth Rates	1	unfit for human	
Blindness - Incidence of	13	habitation	37
British Empire Cancer		work in default of	
Campaign	42	owners	36
		Housing Repairs and Rents	
Cancer Education	12	Act, 1954	39
Caravans	43		
Care and After-care Committee	28	Ice cream	46.47
Care of Mothers and Young		Illegitimate births	1
Children	15	Illegitimacy and mortality	1
Clearance Areas	37.38.39	Immunisation - Diphtheria	24.25
Common Lodging Houses	40	Whooping Cough	24.26
Co-ordinating Committee	13	Infant mortality	2
Convalescent treatment	19	Infant Welfare Clinics	16.17.18
Cremation	12	Infectious Diseases	3.6.7.8
		Influenza	5.6
Day Nurseries	18	Insect Pests	42.43
Deaths	2.3.4.5.6	Introductory Letter	vi
Death Rates	2.3.4		
Death Main causes	5.6	Live Births	1
Dental care	18	Lunacy and Mental Treatment	
Diphtheria Immunisation	24.25	Acts, 1890-1930	32
Diseases of Animals Acts	53.54		
Disinfection	42	Maternity and Child Welfare	15
Disinfestation - Verminous		Maternal Mortality	3.19
Persons	13	Meat Inspection	51.52.53.54
District Midwifery -		Medical Examinations	12
Training	21	Mental Deficiency Acts,	
Domestic Help Service	31	1930/38	33.34
Dwelling houses, inspection		Mental Health Services	31.32.33.34
and repair	35	Midwives' Service	20.21
Dwelling houses unfit for		Milk Supply	45.46
human habitation	37	examination	46
		Mortality, Infant	2.3
Epileptics	15	Mothercraft Classes	16
Estimated population	1		
Export of Meat Products	53	National Assistance Act	34
		National Health Service Act,	
Factories Acts -		1946, Schemes	15/34
Action under	44.45	Notification of Births	1
Food Complaints	50.51	Notification of Infectious	
Food & Drugs Act -		Diseases	6.7.8.9.10.11
Examination and Analysis	47.49.50	Nurseries and Child Minders	
Food Hygiene	9.47.48	Regulation Act, 1948	18
Food Poisoning	9.47		



## INDEX (Continued)

Nursing Homes Registration	19	Causes of death at different periods of life	5.6
Occupation Centre (M.D.)	34	Day Nursery attendances	18
Occupational Therapy	29	Death rates	2.3.4
Offensive Trades	44	Dental Care	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8.14.21	Factories Acts 1937/48	44.45
Penny rate - product of	1	Housing -	
Persons per acre	1	Certificates of	39.40
Pests - extermination	42	Disrepair	
Pet Animals Act, 1951	54	Defects remedied	35.36
Pethidine	21	Immunisation	25
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	43	Infectious Diseases	7.8
Pig-keeping	42	Infant Clinic attendances	16.17.18
Poliomylitis Vaccination	26	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8.14.21
Population	1	Meat Inspection -	
Premature Infants	19	Animals slaughtered	51.52
Prenton Clinic	16	Tuberculosis	3.10.11
Prevention of illness, care and after-care	28.29.30	Tuberculosis contacts	30
Problem Families	13	Tuberculosis primary notifications	11
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	52.53	Vital statistics	1
Pupil Midwives - District Training	21	Theatres, Music Halls and Cinemas	43
Rag Flock, etc., Act, 1951	43	Thingwall Clinic	16
Rateable value	1	Toddlers' Clinics	18
Rats, mice, extermination of	42	Toxaemia - Ante-natal care	21
Rehabilitation (T/B cases)	29	Tuberculosis, notifications	10.11
Refuse Tips - Nuisance	43	Unmarried mothers, care of	19
Rent Act, 1957	39	Un-notified births	1
St. Elizabeth's Convent	19.	Unsound food	50
School Milk - complaints	45	Vaccination Scheme	24.25.26
Shops Act, 1950	49	Verminous Persons -	
Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954 - Licences	53	Disinfestation	13
Slum Clearance Areas	37.38.39	Vital Statistics	1
Smallpox vaccinations	26	Voluntary Agencies	19
Smoke Abatement	40.41.42	Waste Food -	
Spastics	15	Sterilisation Plant	54
Staff	(v)	Water Supply	34
Staff - Meeting	13	Welfare Foods	19
Still Births	1	Whooping Cough -	
Statistics, general	1	Immunisation	24.26
Statistical Tables -		Woodchurch Clinic -	
Birth Rates	1	Transfer	16
Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	14	Woodchurch Estate -	
		Smoke Control Area	41

V

## STAFF

---

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:**

J. W. LOBBAN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

**SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER:**

ANNA M. WILLIAMS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

**ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS:**

Lillie L. Munro, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

John S. Seaton, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S.

A.H. Wilde, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

**VETERINARY OFFICER:**

N.M. Clayton, M.R.C.V.S.

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR  
UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:**

M. Holgate, A.R.SAN.I.

**SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR:**

Miss C.M. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

**LAY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

J.H.H. Shell, D.P.A.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
County Borough of Birkenhead.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report reflects the state of the Public Health in 1957. As will be seen it has been one of steady activity with no outstanding feature. The Health Visitor Training Scheme was inaugurated in August, 1957, by the appointment of two Student Health Visitors.

A specialist Smoke Inspector was appointed in August, 1957. Satisfactory co-operation with industry has been evidenced and it is obvious that this specialist appointment will reinforce the work of the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff in the endeavour to obtain cleaner air. Fortunately the establishment of Public Health Inspectors has been maintained during the year, but the position as regards meat inspectors has remained less satisfactory.

I am glad of this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the interest shown by the Health Committee, and indeed by the Council, in the many activities of the Health Department. To Chief Officers and Heads of Departments I render my thanks for the continued co-operation and help I receive from each and all.

The goal of positive health for all is the aim of the Health Department Staff, which continues to render loyal and efficient service to the Corporation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN.  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

9 Hamilton Square.  
Birkenhead.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	8,598 acres or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (mid-1957)	142,100
Density of population	16.5 persons per acre
Number of houses in Borough (at 1.4.57)	37431
Estimated product of a penny rate	£5805
General Rate	17/7d in the £

## POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

**Population** - The estimated mid-year 1957 population was 142,100. The population, as recorded in the census of 1951, was 142,392 (68,412 males and 73,980 females).

**Births** - There were 2560 live births allocated to the Borough, the corresponding rate being 17.5 per 1000 population compared with the National figure of 16.1

The Birth Rates for the last 10 years are as follows:-

	Rate per 1000 Population
1948 .....	21.4
1949 .....	19.8
1950 .....	18.5
1951 .....	18.2
1952 .....	18.2
1953 .....	18.4
1954 .....	17.7
1955 .....	16.7
1956 .....	16.9
1957 .....	17.5

**Sex Distribution** - 1271 boys and 1289 girls were born during the year

**Legitimacy** - 118 illegitimate births occurred, giving a percentage of 4.6 of the total live births.

**Still Births** - 79 still births were registered representing a still birth rate of 0.5 per 1000 population or 29.9 per 1000 total births. The corresponding figure for England & Wales is 22.4 per 1000 total births.

**Births notified during the year** - Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 2638 births were notified including 78 still births.

**Births in Hospitals:**

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	619 (17 still births)
St. Catherine's Hospital	1076 (48 still births)
Births in Nursing Homes	41 (1 still birth)
Other Births: Notified by midwives	824 (12 still births)

**Un-notified Births** - The Registrars reported 5 births of which 3 were not notified by doctors or midwives and 2 by hospitals.

## DEATHS

Deaths — 1745 deaths occurred during the year representing a death rate of 12.7 per 1000 population. The comparable figure for England & Wales was 11.5. The Death Rates for recent years are as follows:—

Rate per 1000 population

1948	...	...	...	...	12.1
1949	...	...	...	...	12.3
1950	...	...	...	...	12.4
1951	...	...	...	...	14.2
1952	...	...	...	...	12.6
1953	...	...	...	...	11.8
1954	...	...	...	...	12.7
1955	...	...	...	...	13.3
1956	...	...	...	...	12.8
1957	...	...	...	...	12.7

Sex Distribution of Deaths — 928 males and 817 females died during the year.

Infant Mortality — The Infant Mortality Rate for 31.6 per 1000 live births compared with 33.4 for 1956. The comparable rate for England and Wales is 23. The Infant Mortality Rates of recent years are as follows:—

	Rate per 1,000 Live Births			
	Birkenhead			England & Wales
1948	...	...	53	34
1949	...	...	39	32
1950	...	...	42	30
1951	...	...	40.5	30
1952	...	...	34.7	27.6
1953	...	...	28.4	26.8
1954	...	...	28.5	25.5
1955	...	...	27.9	24.9
1956	...	...	33.4	23.8
1957	...	...	31.6	23

The rate for Birkenhead is still higher than the average for England and Wales, but is less than 1956.

When these infant deaths are analysed, it is found that the deaths of infants under 4 weeks numbered 50 or 19.5 per 1000 live births.

This neonatal rate compares with the National figure of 16.5

The neonatal deaths represented 61% of total infant deaths.

If the perinatal mortality is considered (still births and deaths of infants up to 1 week) the figure for Birkenhead is 46.2 for 1000 total births in comparison with the National figure of 36.2

The causes of death in the 81 infant deaths were as follows:—

Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	17
Pneumonia	...	...	...	12
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	...	...	...	6
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	1
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	1
Other Infective diseases	...	...	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	41
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Total				<u>81</u>

66 of the 81 deaths occurred in hospitals.

The causes of death in the neonatal group were as follows -

Prematurity	21
Congenital Malformations	9
Broncho-pneumonia	8
Atelectasis	4
Haemorrhagic disease of the newborn	3
Bronchial obstruction (breach delivery)	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	2
Asphyxia neonatorum	1
Birth trauma	1
	<hr/> 50

Emphasis has been laid by Health Visitors on the avoidance of accidents in the home and special demonstrations have taken place in the infant welfare centres. It is hoped that an improvement in succeeding years can be shown.

**Maternal Deaths:** There was one maternal death during the year giving a mortality rate of 0.37 per 1000 total births.

#### Deaths from Tuberculosis:

		Rate per 1000 population	
		Birkenhead	England & Wales
Respiratory	19	0.13	0.095
Non-Respiratory	2	0.014	0.012
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<u>21</u>		

**Deaths from Cancer of the Lung:** An increase from 56 (1956) to 60 deaths from cancer of the lung has been noted

	Male	Female	Total
1951 ...	44	5	49
1952 ...	46	10	56
1953 ...	45	8	53
1954 ...	57	5	62
1955 ...	65	17	82
1956 ...	48	8	56
1957 ...	53	7	60

The rate per 1000 population is 0.42. The National figure is 0.426.

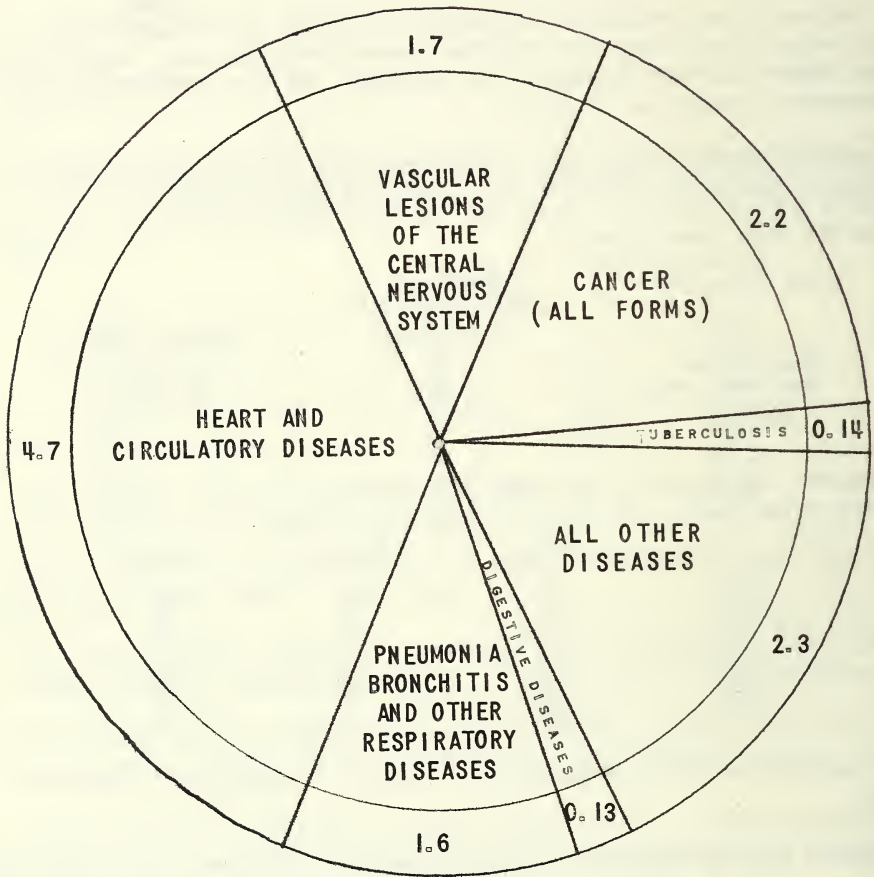
**Deaths from Cancer of Other Sites:** Deaths from cancer of other sites numbered 262, representing 1.84 per 1000 population, compared with the National figure of 1.67.

**Heart Disease:** This accounted for 521 deaths and is still the greatest cause of death.

#### Deaths from Infectious Diseases:

Meningococcal infections	1
Measles	1
Other infective conditions	5
Pneumonia	86
Influenza	17

## Main Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population 1957





## CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE - 1957

(As compiled by the Registrar-General)

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	Male	928	43	9	6	9	42	282	252	285
	Female	817	38	4	4	7	41	146	208	369
1. Tuberculosis respiratory	Male	15	-	-	-	-	5	9	-	1
	Female	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	Male	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	Male	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
	Female	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
4. Diphtheria	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	Male	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	Male	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	Male	25	-	-	-	-	1	6	11	7
	Female	18	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	Male	53	-	-	-	-	-	30	18	5
	Female	7	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	28	-	-	-	-	3	11	6	8
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	20	-	-	-	-	3	6	5	6
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Male	108	-	-	2	-	5	38	35	28
	Female	62	-	-	1	1	8	18	21	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Male	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	Female	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
16. Diabetes	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	Male	104	-	-	-	-	3	21	34	46
	Female	132	-	-	-	-	4	25	43	60
18. Coronary disease, angina	Male	144	-	-	-	-	4	62	39	39
	Female	96	-	-	-	-	-	19	37	40
19. Hypertension with heart disease	Male	19	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	8
	Female	24	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	14
20. Other heart disease	Male	112	-	-	-	1	3	23	29	56
	Female	126	-	-	-	1	4	15	26	80
21. Other circulatory disease	Male	25	-	-	-	-	2	4	6	13
	Female	33	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	24
22. Influenza	Male	8	-	-	1	-	1	3	1	2
	Female	9	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	4
23. Pneumonia	Male	48	10	1	-	-	1	10	8	18
	Female	38	2	-	-	-	1	2	10	23
24. Bronchitis	Male	99	1	-	-	-	2	37	39	20
	Female	33	-	-	-	-	-	4	14	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	Male	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
	Female	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	Male	10	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	2
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	Male	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Female	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	Male	7	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	2
	Female	6	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	Male	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	Male	14	8	4	-	-	-	2	-	-
	Female	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE - 1957.

(Continued)

(As compiled by the Registrar-General)

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	Male	928	43	9	6	9	42	282	252	285
	Female	817	38	4	4	7	41	146	208	369
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	Male	70	17	1	2	2	4	9	10	25
	Female	106	24	-	1	1	1	15	16	48
33. Motor vehicle accidents	Male	11	1	1	-	3	1	2	1	2
	Female	3	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
34. All other accidents	Male	26	-	5	1	2	4	7	4	3
	Female	26	3	3	-	2	2	3	2	11
35. Suicide	Male	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
	Female	9	-	-	-	-	3	4	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles and Whooping Cough formed the greater number of notifiable infectious diseases during the year.

1834 confirmed cases of measles and 329 confirmed cases of whooping cough were notified.

There were 66 mild cases of scarlet fever notified.

One paralytic case of poliomyelitis was notified.

75 cases of dysentery (the vast majority due to the Sonne Bacillus and many symptomless) were notified.

One case of typhoid fever was notified from hospital - a resident from another Borough.

In common with the rest of the country, the borough experienced in the autumn the Asian type influenza. Early in September a number of Indian members of a ship in a local shipyard were found to be suffering from influenza - Influenza Virus A was subsequently found to be the cause.

The peak of the epidemic was reached at the end of September when approximately 40 per cent of the school children were absent from school. In the first week of October the number of sickness claims at the Local Office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance was six times the normal for the autumn. From then the number of cases diminished and the epidemic swiftly declined. A small number of deaths was attributed to influenza. The total number of influenza deaths throughout the year was 17 compared with none in 1956 and 5 in 1955.

Vaccination against the Asian type of influenza was available for general practitioners, nurses, midwives, home helps, ambulance staffs and others likely to be called upon to meet the sick in their homes. Approximately 310 were vaccinated.

	Meningo-coccal Infection		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Whooping Cough		Dysentery	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	F.
Numbers originally notified	4	7	38	34	1	1	1	-	-	1026	908	158	174	37	50
Final numbers after correction:															
Age under 1 year ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	41	25	30	3	2
Age 1 - ...	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	89	87	18	20	5	6
Age 2 - ...	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	129	114	33	23	2	5
Age 3 - ...	-	1	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	130	113	20	18	3	2
Age 4 - ...	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	136	114	18	29	3	4
Age 5 - 9 years ...	-	-	17	19	-	-	-	-	-	393	410	40	44	10	11
Age 10-14 years ...	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	15	4	5	3	1
Age 15 - 24 years ...	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	-	1	4
Age 25 years and over ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	7
Totals ...	2	3	33	33	-	-	*1	-	-	932	902	158	171	33	42

\* Confirmed as paralytic poliomyelitis

	Acute Pri- mary and Influenzal Pneumonia		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Malaria		Para- Typhoid Fever		Erys- sipelas		Small Pox		Puer- peral Pyrexia	Acute Encephalitis				Food Poison- ing		Ophthal- mia Neona- torum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified.	105	78	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	63	1	-	-	-	136	137	-	-
Final numbers after correction: Under 5 years	16	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Age 5 - 14 years	13	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 15 - 44 years	14	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	63	-	-	-	1	16	-	-	-
Age 45 - 64 years	36	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Age 65 and over	26	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	105	78	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-	63	1	-	-	4	18	-	-	-



# SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING CASES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD AND/OR DRINK

357 cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year. Investigations involved 409 visits to patients' houses and the submission of 725 specimens for bacteriological examination.

Remnants of food suspected to have caused food poisoning are rarely available for examination and in only 2 cases was it possible to submit such samples for examination.

The causal agent was confirmed in the following cases:-

Shigella Sonnei	23 cases
Salmonella Newport	20 cases
Salmonella typhimurium	2 cases
Salmonella Dublin	1 case

The cases of Shigella Sonnei all occurred in isolated outbreaks at different times.

In an outbreak of food poisoning in a school kitchen no organism was isolated from any of the persons affected or staff concerned, but Salmonella typhimurium was isolated from a sample of dripping prepared from meat consumed at the suspected meal, and also from a scraping of the deposit from the inside surface of the boiler in which the meat was cooked.

All but one of the cases of Salmonella Newport occurred during an outbreak which was caused by roast pork and roast beef prepared in a local factory. Samples and swabs taken at the factory showed that a table used for wrapping the cooked meats was infected by the organism. As this table was also used for preparing the raw meat, this was the probable cause of the infection, although a number of symptomless carriers of Salmonella Newport were discovered amongst the factory staff during the investigations. As these persons had consumed either roast beef or roast pork prior to the outbreak being discovered, it was not possible to say whether they had caused the outbreak or had become infected from the food. The case of Salmonella Dublin was a symptomless carrier discovered during these investigations.

When visits are made to the houses of affected families, advantage is taken of the opportunity afforded to give advice on the need for personal hygiene and the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection.

During the year approximately 1,400 samples of various kinds have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, whose director, J. Morrison Ritchie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., and staff have continued to give every help in our investigations.

## TUBERCULOSIS

## Notifications.

The total number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 113. This number shows a decrease of 13 from that of 1956.

## Mortality.

The total number of deaths certified as due to tuberculosis was as follows:-

Respiratory ...	...	...	...	19
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	2
				<u>21</u>

## Tuberculosis Register.

At the 31st December, 1957, the register (including transfers into the Borough) showed a decrease of 17 compared with 31st December, 1956, and was as follows:-

		Adults	Children (Under 15 yrs )	Total
Respiratory	- Male	752	63	815
	- Female	600	62	662
Non-Respiratory	- Male	25	49	74
	- Female	42	37	79
Total	Male	777	112	889
	Female	642	99	741
TOTAL:-		1419	211	1630



FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS DURING YEAR  
NUMBER OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
Respiratory	Males	1	-	-	-	4	2	4	11	4	15	5	6	3	55
	Females	-	-	-	4	4	5	4	13	9	4	-	1	-	44
Non-Respiratory	Males	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Females	1	1	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	8
TOTAL		2	1	1	4	9	8	11	24	13	20	5	7	3	108

## NEW CASES OTHER THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION

	Males	Females	Total
Death returns from Local Registrars Respiratory - Males	679	-	679
" " Females	-	80	80
Non-Respiratory - Males	200	-	200
" " Females	200	-	200
TOTALS:	1079	80	1159
Death returns from Registrar-General (Transferable deaths) Respiratory - Males	470	-	470
" " Females	-	100	100
Non-Respiratory - Males	100	-	100
" " Females	100	-	100
TOTALS:	670	100	770
Posthumous Notifications Respiratory - Males	200	-	200
" " Females	-	100	100
Non-Respiratory - Males	200	-	200
" " Females	200	-	200
TOTALS:	600	100	700

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

**Cremation.**

The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Referee to the Landican Crematorium. During the year, 1724 cremations took place, compared with 1870 in 1956.

**Medical Examinations.**

The following medical examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff during the year:-

Ambulance Service	...	...	5
Borough Architect	...	...	11
Cleansing Department	...	...	76
Education Department - General	128		
Teachers	24		
Application for admission to			
Training Colleges	52		204
Borough Engineer & Surveyor	...	...	42
Fire Service	...	...	7
Health Department	...	...	14
Housing Department	...	...	2
Libraries	...	...	1
Markets & Baths	...	...	8
Parks & Cemeteries	...	...	48
Police Department	...	...	23
Transport Department -			
Motor Buses	321		
Ferries	9		330
Town Clerk	...	...	6
Borough Treasurer	...	...	13
Water Department	...	...	60
Weights & Measures Department	...	...	2
Welfare Department	...	...	14
Works & Buildings Department	...	...	105
TOTAL:-			<u>971</u>

**Cancer Education.**

In July, the Council decided to adopt a recommendation of the Health Committee to initiate discussions with adjoining Local Authorities on Merseyside with a view to establishing a scheme for the education of the public regarding cancer along the lines of the scheme which has been operating in Manchester since 1952.

Cancer Education being such a complex matter, it was very desirable for Local Authorities to have a uniform approach to the subject, and the whole of Merseyside appeared to be an area where an integrated scheme could be put into operation.

Pending the outcome of these discussions, the Council have deferred taking action under Ministry of Health Circular 7/57 concerning Smoking and Cancer of the Lung. It is felt that it would be preferable to incorporate publicity in this connection in the general scheme for Cancer Education.

A preliminary meeting between representatives of all Local Authorities on Merseyside is to be held early in 1958 in Liverpool.

### Staff Meeting.

A meeting of the Medical and Nursing Staff of the Department, including the Mental Welfare Staff, was held in the North Clinic on 5th November. The Moral Welfare Worker of the Birkenhead & Wirral Moral Welfare Association was present.

Dr. J.L. Fluker, Medical Officer in charge of the Venereal Diseases Centre in Birkenhead gave an address on the present day position of venereal diseases - treatment and prevention.

An interesting discussion followed and it is felt that following on a similar staff meeting addressed by the Chest Physician on Tuberculosis, the partnership between the curative and preventive aspects of medicine has been strengthened locally. It is hoped to follow with similar meetings in the future.

### Co-ordinating Committee - Problem Families.

During the year two meetings have been held of the Co-ordinating Committee of the statutory and voluntary social services dealing with the family, which was set up under the joint circular issued by the Home Office, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health on the 31st August, 1950. The Committee considered what steps could be taken to prevent at least some of the evictions which arose from time to time in the case of problem families and the circumstances and histories of certain specific cases which have also been the subject of additional discussions by the individual officers concerned from time to time.

### Disinfestation of Verminous Persons.

Following the transfer of the Home Nursing Service Headquarters to accommodation at the Balls Road Clinic in April, 1956, it was no longer possible to cleanse verminous persons at those premises. Early in 1957, therefore, arrangements were made with the Liverpool Local Health Authority for any persons in Birkenhead requiring cleansing to be dealt with in Liverpool.

## INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS

On the 31st December, 1957, there were on the Register of Blind Persons the names of 126 males and 207 females making a total of 333. The corresponding number on the Register on the same date in 1956 was 313.

14 males and 37 females were added to the Register during the year. Removals from the Borough, deaths and decertifications accounted for the deletion of the names of 14 males and 22 females, and transfers from other areas into the Borough accounted for 2 males and 3 females.

The number of persons on the Register of the Partially Sighted on the 31st December, 1957, was 85 - 36 males and 49 females. The corresponding number on the same date in 1956 was also 85. During the year, the names of 18 persons (6 males and 12 females) were added to the Register. Transfers to the Blind Persons' Register, decertifications and deaths accounted for the deletion of 18 names from the Register of the Partially Sighted.



Of the total number of 418 on the Registers of the Blind and Partially Sighted, 188 are over the age of 70. Children (Blind and Partially Sighted) under the age of 16 number 24, including 7 registered during 1957.

During the year, 93 examinations including 28 re-examinations were carried out by the ophthalmic surgeon. The cause of blindness in the 51 cases registered as being blind within the meaning of the National Assistance Act during 1957, was as follows:-

Cataract	...	...	...	...	25
Glaucoma	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital and myopic defects	...	...	...	...	20

The partially sighted persons notified in the same period were 8 cataract cases, 10 congenital or myopic defects.

#### A - Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

(i) Number of Cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Form B.D.8 recommends:-

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) No treatment	12	-	-	14
(b) Treatment (Medical, surgical or optical)	21	6	1	15
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (a) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	2	-	-	3

#### B - Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i)	Total number of cases notified during the year.	Nil
(ii)	Number of cases in which (a) vision lost (b) vision impaired (c) treatment continuing at end of year.	Nil

## SPASTICS AND EPILEPTICS

## Spastic Pupils

The particulars given below relate to the number of Birkenhead children known to be suffering from spastic conditions as at 31st December, 1957-

## School Children -

Attending ordinary schools	9 pupils
At School for Spastics, Birkenhead	8 pupils
	<hr/> 17 pupils

## Pre-School Children -

At home not receiving education	2 pupils
Combined total	<hr/> 19 pupils <hr/>

## Epileptics.

There are 48 epileptics on the Handicapped Persons Register, 38 live in their own homes and 10 are in Epileptic Colonies

The problem of epilepsy in school children is not an acute one - only 1 child is registered on the Handicapped Pupils Register as an epileptic. In medical inspections in 1957, 8 children were noted to be kept under observation.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES UNDER THE  
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946  
CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

## Ante-natal Clinics.

Ante-natal clinics were held once weekly at the Central Clinic and the North and South Clinics. Clinics were held on 151 occasions, the number of patients dealt with being 850 and the total number of attendances made being 2512. 114 patients had attended during 1956.

## Attendances at Clinics.

Clinic	No. of Sessions	No. of Cases	No of Attendances
Central	50	404	1069
North	51	201	562
South	50	245	881



### Ante-natal Relaxation Classes.

In January, 1957, weekly classes in relaxation preparation for confinement were commenced at the North Clinic. A trained physiotherapist is in attendance at each session.

Opportunity was taken to give talks on mothercraft by midwives and health visitors. The mothers-to-be appreciate the relaxation classes and also the mothercraft instruction (particularly found helpful in the case of first babies).

The classes were so successful that when opportunity arose to employ a second physiotherapist in July, weekly sessions were commenced at the South Clinic.

Clinic	Patients	Attendances
North	142	706
South (6 months)	52	343

### Infant Welfare Clinics.

At the end of the year Clinics were being held as follows:-

Central Clinic: Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.  
 South Clinic: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.  
 North Clinic: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Balls Road Clinic: Thursday and Friday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Upton Clinic: Tuesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.  
 Woodchurch Clinic: Monday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

### Woodchurch Clinic.

In an effort to find more suitable accommodation, the Clinic was transferred from the Co-operative Hall, Woodchurch Road, to the Scout Headquarters, Home Farm Road, on 13th May, 1957. This address is nearer the heart of the estate but it is disappointing to find that the majority of the mothers attending the clinic are still those from the Prenton area, and, as approval has been given for provision in 1958 of infant welfare clinic facilities at Prenton and Thingwall, the very small number of mothers from the Woodchurch Estate who use the clinic is causing serious concern.

Attendances at Clinics. Below are set out details of attendances at Clinics:

CLINIC	Attendance of under 1's	1-2	2-5	Total attendances	No. of sessions	Total 1st visits	Total re-visits	Doctor's 1st visits	Doctor's re-visits
North* . . .	3597	492	281	4370	146	389	3981	348	1714
South* . . .	4674	421	213	5308	142	412	4896	387	1629
Central	2709	83	95	2887	100	318	2569	302	574
Balls Road	3432	328	182	3942	102	313	3629	290	1248
Upton . . .	1173	130	50	1353	51	140	1213	94	258
Woodchurch	1202	82	85	1369	49	168	1201	158	396
Totals . . .	16787	1536	906	19229	590	1740	17489	1579	5819

\* Include Toddler Clinics

## Toddler Clinics.

Toddler Clinics for children between the age of one and five years previously held at the North and South Clinics each Monday between 2 and 5 p.m., were discontinued as from the 31st October, and toddlers now attend the normal Infant Welfare Centres.

## Dental Treatment.

By arrangement with the Education Committee, expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age can receive dental treatment by the School Dental Staff at the School Dental Clinic.

The following table gives details of the dental care provided:-

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ... ..	5	5	5	2
Children under Five	92	82	78	77

Forms of Dental Treatment provided:-

	Scal- ing and gum Treat- ment	Fill- ings	Silver Nitrate Treat- ment	Crowns or Inlays	Extract- ions	General Anaes- thetics	Dentures Provided		Radio graph
							Full U L	Part U or L	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	1	-	-	-	29	2	4	-	2
Children under Five	-	10	4	-	157	78	-	-	-

## Day Nurseries.

The following table shows the attendances during the year..

Name of Nursery	Capacity	No. on register at End of the year		Average daily attendances during the year	
		0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
Cavendish Road	25 places	7	21	5	11
Old Chester Road	25	5	9	6	12

## Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948

There is one registration under this Act, 72 Cavendish Drive.



## Nursing Homes Registration - Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 187.

At the end of the year there were four Nursing Homes registered in the Borough.

All Nursing Homes are inspected periodically by the Senior Assistant Medical Officer.

## Care of Unmarried Mothers and Children.

Arrangements are in operation for the care and welfare of unmarried mothers and their children. Close co-operation is maintained with moral welfare associations and churches of all denominations. The Local Health Authority contributed £50 to the funds of the Birkenhead and Wirral Moral Welfare Association.

These expectant mothers are encouraged to attend ante-natal clinics and to enter mother and baby homes where it is deemed desirable. The usual practice is for the expectant mother to enter the home before the confinement and to remain following the birth of her baby. The usual length of stay averages twelve weeks.

## Care of Premature Infants.

During the year, 228 premature babies were born, 41 were still born and 187 born alive. 178 were born in hospital or Nursing Homes and 50 born at home. Premature babies are the subject of particular attention by Midwives and Health Visitors.

## Convalescent Treatment.

17 children under the age of 5 years were recommended for convalescent treatment during the year.

## Voluntary Agencies Assisted by Local Authority

(a) St. Elizabeth's Convent. Number of attendances during year:-  
Children under 1 year ... 121 1st Visits 938 Re-visits.

(b) Birkenhead and District Mothers' Welfare Clinic. Of the 626 new patients who were given advice at the Clinic during the year, 239 were residents of the Borough.

## Maternal Mortality.

Two maternal deaths occurred in the Borough but only one in a Birkenhead resident. The second death was a resident in a neighbouring borough but had been admitted to hospital in Birkenhead.

## Distribution of Welfare Foods.

During the year there has been a decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk and Orange Juice, due in part to the rise in the price of the National Dried Milk from 10½d. to 2s.4d. per tin and the discontinuance of Orange Juice for children in reaching the age of two years instead of five years.

The distribution centre at the Water Office, 601 Borough Road (one session weekly) was closed owing to the very small number of mothers using the centre; the owners of the Hoylake Road Depot gave notice that they required the premises for their own use and, although

strenuous efforts were made to obtain alternative accommodation in the area, no suitable building could be found and both these depots were closed on 20th April, 1957. No complaint of hardship or inconvenience has been received as a result of this action.

There are now ten distribution centres, including the infant welfare clinics. Members of the W.V.S. continue to staff the centres at St. Peter's Hall, Rock Ferry, and their own premises in Grange Road West.

### MIDWIVES SERVICE

#### Number of Midwives.

During the year 61 midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough, as follows:-

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	12
Maternity Hospital Midwife	...	...	...	1
Private Midwives	...	...	...	4
Midwives in Hospitals & Institutions	...	...	...	42
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	2
				<hr/> 61

#### Supervision

Dr. A.M. Williams, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, acts as Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Miss M. Pringle, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C., M.T.D., carried out the following work:-

Inspection of midwives:	Nursing Visits	248
	Visits to midwives' homes	54
	Interviews at Office	405
Visits in connection with:-		
Cases requiring medical aid	...	60
Cases of puerperal pyrexia	...	"
Cases of stillbirth	...	3
Expectant mothers	...	101
Other Visits	...	140
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	Municipal	149
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	G.P.	39
Attendances at Relaxation Clinics	...	53

#### Number of Cases attended by Midwives - 827

The number of domiciliary confinements attended by midwives alone (no doctor in attendance) numbered 674.

#### Cases requiring medical aid.

90 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 129 last year.

#### Notifications received from Midwives.

Stillbirths	...	...	...	12
*Substitution of artificial feeding	...	...	...	189
Deaths	...	...	...	1

#### Municipal Midwives

The following is a summary of the work of the Municipal Midwives during the year.

No. of Bookings	...	...	762
No. of Births attended - (a) as Maternity Nurse	...	125	
(b) as Midwife	...	570	695
No. of Visits to patients	...	...	15641

\*Including hospital notifications.



### Birkenhead Maternity Hospital.

The following is a summary of the domiciliary work carried out by the Hospital Midwifery Staff under an agreement between the Local Authority and the Hospital Authority:-

No. of bookings	...	...	110
No. of domiciliary births	...	...	106
No. of visits to homes of patients	...	...	4497

### Independent Midwives.

Independent Midwives attended 17 cases as Midwives and 9 cases as Maternity Nurses during the year.

### Gas and Air Analgesia.

Gas and air analgesia was administered by the Municipal Midwives to 388 patients and by the Maternity Hospital District Midwifery Staff to 44 patients.

Arrangements have now been made for each Municipal Midwife to have a Gas and Air Machine at her own home instead of central storage and distribution from the Central Fire Station.

### Pethidine.

Pethidine was administered to 499 patients by Municipal Midwives and to 61 patients by the District Midwifery Staff of the Maternity Hospital.

### District Midwifery Training.

Following queries by the Central Midwives Board as to the lack of ante-natal examinations of patients by Pupil Midwives receiving their District Training at the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital for Part II of the Board's Certificate, discussions were held with representatives of the Birkenhead Hospital Management Committee and the Board.

As a result, the number of domiciliary cases booked with the District Midwifery Teacher at the Hospital is now being reduced to about 90 per year, and the Teacher is now restricted to one Pupil Midwife. Other pupils in training at the Hospital are being allocated for their three months' training to those individual Municipal Midwives who are approved by the Central Midwives Board as Teaching District Midwives, as the Local Authority is responsible for the ante-natal work and the supervision of cases.

### Ante-natal Care related to Toxaemia.

A meeting of professional representatives of the three parts of the National Health Service was held in Birkenhead in July, 1956, to discuss a memorandum of advice on this subject from the Standing Maternity and Midwifery Advisory Committee of the Central Health Services Council. A full and frank discussion took place. It was decided to have a further meeting should the circumstances warrant such a meeting. The Consultant Obstetricians undertook to acquaint the remainder of the Committee should a subsequent meeting be necessary. So far, no further meeting has taken place.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

## HEALTH VISITING

The approved Health Visiting Staff Establishment consists of a Superintendent and 18 Health Visitors. During 1957, most posts have been kept filled, in one case by the employment of two part-time Health Visitors. In anticipation, however, of a relatively high proportion of impending retirements amongst the existing staff, allied to the national difficulties in recruitment, the Authority during 1957 appointed two Student Health Visitors who in August commenced their tutorage at the Liverpool School for Health Visitors.

The Health Visitors are employed on all sections of the medical work of the Department, thus obtaining co-ordination between the Public Health, Maternity & Child Welfare and School Health Services. Each Visitor is allotted a district of the Borough for which she is responsible.

### Visiting in the Home.

The following is a summary of work done by Health Visitors:-

2620 first visits were paid to infants under one year old.

13731 subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year old.

\*24329 routine visits were paid to infants over one year and under five years old.

\*\* 332 first visits were paid to expectant mothers.

152 re-visits were paid to expectant mothers.

823 visits were paid in connection with miscellaneous matters.

6702 visits were paid in which no access could be obtained.

(\*includes visits paid in respect of Poliomyelitis Vaccination).

(\*\* Does not include visits paid by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives).

### Clinic Duties.

Health Visitors attended 1624 Clinic Sessions during the year (1194 Infant Welfare; 175 Ante-natal; 48 Sunlight; 106 Superannuation Sessions; 25 B.C.G. Vaccination; 74 Relaxation Clinics; 2 Poliomyelitis Vaccination Sessions).

### Visits to Tuberculous Cases.

The homes of tuberculous persons are visited by Health Visiting Staff to help and advise the patient and the family.

Health Visitors made 197 first visits and 3501 re-visits (774 visits - no access).

## HOME NURSING SERVICE

Although at no time during the year has there been a full quota of staff on duty, the shortage has been much less acute than in 1956 and all requests for home nursing services have been met.

The appointment of a second Male Nurse in August has been much appreciated by both doctors and patients.

Miss L.M. Carpenter, having completed 21 years' Service as a Queen's Nursing Sister, was presented with her Long Service Badge in November at St. James' Palace, London.

A change has now been made in the system of lending nursing equipment to patients, and instead of the nominal weekly charge a deposit of 1/- is now charged for each article. The deposit is

returnable when the article is returned in good condition.

It is considered that many of the cases death with, particularly the aged and those suffering from tuberculosis, would have to be admitted to hospital were it not for the home nursing service. The service also enables nursing care to be given to patients at home awaiting hospital admission at times of pressure, whilst speedy discharge from hospital at such times is also facilitated by the home nursing service.

#### Summary of the Work done during the Year.

Cases brought forward from 1956	...	...	...	440
New Cases during the year	...	...	...	1810
Total cases nursed	...	...	...	<u>2250</u>

#### Nursing services provided for new cases at the request of:-

Doctors	...	...	...	1558
Patients, Relatives and Friends	...	...	...	49
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	17
Hospitals	...	...	...	176
Other sources	...	...	...	10
				<u>1810</u>

#### Classification of cases nursed and visits paid:-

	Cases	Visits
Medical	1847	51542
Surgical	209	9501
Infectious Diseases	5	27
Tuberculosis	154	7239
Maternal Complications	35	221
	2250	<u>68530</u>

#### Visits:-

To patients who were over 65 yrs at 1st visit	-	20993
To " " " under 5 yrs at 1st visit	-	142
To " " " had over 24 visits during year	-	47160

#### Classification of Injections (To patients not having other treatment).

	Cases	Visits
Penicillin	862	6222
Streptomycin	101	4431
Mersalyl etc.	248	6986
Insulin	61	7436
Cytamen etc.	208	5727
Morphia	14	380
Others	26	470
	1520	<u>31652</u>

#### Visits by Superintendent:-

Supervisory - with Staff	273
- alone	154
Investigatory	54
Nursing	67
Casual	25
	<u>573</u>



## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The Ministry of Health Circular No. 8/57 following the report of the Medical Research Council on inoculation procedures was adopted.

F.T., T.A.F., in the case of diphtheria immunisation, and plain pertussis vaccine in the case of whooping cough, are available in the Health Department on demand by general practitioners.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

It is estimated that 42.4 per cent of children under five years and 94.6 per cent of the school population have been immunised.

The number of children dealt with during the year was as follows:-

	Primary	Reinforcing Injections
0 - 4 years	1205	53
5 - 9 years	450	837
10 - 14 years	52	473
15 years and over	3	7
	<hr/> 1710 <hr/>	<hr/> 1370 <hr/>

This work was shared as follows between General Practitioners and Medical Officers of the Health Department:-

	Medical Officers	General Practitioners
Immunisation against Diphtheria	899	378
Reinforcing Injections against Diphtheria	1250	120
Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation	8	395
Triple Antigen	-	30



The following tabulated statement shows the numbers immunised against Diphtheria each year since 1936

Age in Yrs. on 31st Dec. of the Corres. Yr.	Up to 1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total Immu- nised at 31st Dec. 1957
Under 1 yr.	4	1	13	3	3	1	-	18	9	-	5	30	71	60	27	45	539	535	637	626	524	510	
1 year	81	19	31	12	15	106	419	551	548	714	588	712	1009	1124	1020	981	564	494	378	270	228	467	Aged Under 5 years 5031
2 years	54	24	73	45	31	201	501	465	347	355	355	241	353	385	316	289	181	261	251	245	294	130	
3 years	68	30	78	32	25	211	414	392	65	139	125	93	113	144	148	80	63	96	75	85	67	60	
4 years	96	28	77	28	19	184	379	382	57	47	75	71	71	84	136	67	86	67	60	77	57	60	
5 years	241	43	125	43	23	244	350	246	60	37	51	55	56	80	212	137	275	136	176	243	232	194	Aged
6 years	525	48	174	31	19	450	264	285	48	27	43	33	31	58	344	135	279	249	236	359	244	141	5 9
7 years	609	32	190	45	27	478	219	320	43	17	26	20	28	41	281	115	150	165	123	186	111	60	years
8 years	621	19	200	32	27	511	163	248	23	10	20	26	26	21	331	161	116	98	77	89	74	35	9423
9 years	691	23	120	23	18	511	129	286	21	12	20	17	11	33	273	131	81	57	44	34	61	27	19588
10 years	731	5	125	20	17	515	121	240	16	6	27	14	20	22	267	114	124	78	37	21	60	35	
11 years	674	10	96	11	10	655	112	292	16	11	17	8	13	33	221	105	90	46	19	7	25	18	Aged
12 years	567	9	111	11	10	385	113	298	7	1	10	5	14	7	62	57	71	15	7	1	6	7	10-14 years
13 years	539	6	62	9	7	336	103	198	15	1	5	7	6	7	13	23	123	6	1	4			
14 years	318	4	44	3	5	250	36	208	19	8	4	7	6	6	14	12	142	7		1			10165
15 years and over	119	9	69	25	23	132	27	33	24	22	8	15	14	14	11	19	16	12	6	8	9	3	Aged 15 yrs & over 25761
Total each Year	5938	310	1588	373	279	5170	3350	4462	1318	1407	1379	1354	1842	2119	3576	2471	2990	2922	2127	2956	1992	1747	Grand Total 1936 1957 50380
Reinforcing Injections												47	123	77	435	2368	2198	1428	1715	1339	2150	1344	17141

### Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Early in the year the Ministry of Health extended the scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis to include all children born in the years 1947 to 1956 inclusive. The vaccine continued to be in very short supply. At the end of the year a further extension was made to include all children between the ages of 6 months and fifteen years, expectant mothers, general practitioners and their families, ambulance staff and their families, and the families of hospital staff likely to be in contact with cases of poliomyelitis.

At the end of the year, 7,100 persons were awaiting vaccination against poliomyelitis, while 350 had completed their course of two injections and 21 had received their first injection during the year.

### Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

Requests for immunisation against Whooping Cough were dealt with at the Clinics, as follows:-

0 - 1 years	...	...	...	68
1 - 2 years	...	...	...	89
2 - 3 years	...	...	...	35
3 - 4 years	...	...	...	15
4 - 5 years	...	...	...	12
5 - 6 years	...	...	...	8
				<u>227</u>

### Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year the following vaccinations have been carried out:-

By Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics	...	...	438
By General Practitioners	...	...	<u>1228</u>
			<u>1666</u>

The accompanying table shows the age groups of the persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated).

Age at Date of Vaccination	0 - 1 years	1 - 2 years	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 years & over	Total
Number Vaccinated	926	83	69	63	62	1203
Number Re-Vaccinated	-	3	8	57	395	463

Number of cases specially reported (age groups as above)- None.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Chief Fire Officer is responsible for the supervision and administration of the Ambulance Service and I am indebted to him for the following report in respect of 1957.

49,931 calls were attended, an increase of 2,057 upon last year and the highest ever. It would appear that a large share of the increase can be attributed to increased demand from the Physiotherapy Department of a local hospital.

Apart from this, the year's work has followed a similar pattern to previous years and co-operation from all with whom we work was as excellent as ever.

Radio continues to play an important part in the control of ambulances both for response to emergencies in times of stress and in the reduction of mileage for non-emergencies.

60 cases occurred during the year where it was necessary for crews to administer oxygen, whilst artificial respiration was resorted to on even more occasions. On at least three calls the Fire Brigade Eve Riley Rocking Stretcher was used. A number of these cases, where prompt and efficient joint action by both Fire and Ambulance Services undoubtedly saved lives, stresses the advantages gained by having a joint Headquarters Control.

Emergency transport was also provided twice during 1957 for the Maternity Flying Squad.

Regretfully, I have to report that 21 malicious False Alarms were received by the Ambulance Service, and not all were made by children.

Establishment:	Approved	Actual
Shift Leader ... ..	4	4
Driver/Attendants ... ..	31	31
Control Room ... ..	4	4
	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>

#### Variations during the year:

Resignations:	2 Driver/Attendants
Appointments:	5 Driver/Attendants (3 in place of firemen temporarily seconded from the Brigade)
Recruitment:	Applications received - 17 Applications accepted - 5

Average Age: 37 years 7 months.

Average length of service: 9 years 6 months.

#### Sickness:-

Due to service ... ..	52 days (0.41%)
Not due to service ... ..	296 days (2.3%)
Light duty - due to service ... ..	0 days (0.0%)
Light duty - not due to service	157 days (1.2%)

#### Classification of Calls.

Type	Calls	Patients	Mileage
Emergency	4876	4925	21232
Removals	42594	42906	139197
Special Service	1848	-	6915
Abortive	613	-	1793
	<u>49931</u>	<u>47831</u>	<u>168137</u>



**Mutual Assistance:-**

Assistance to:	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey ... ..	23	147
Cheshire ... ..	10	98
Others ... ..	22	281
	<u>55</u>	<u>526</u>

Assistance From:	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey ... ..	-	-
Cheshire ... ..	1	6
Others ... ..	1	12
	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>

**Standbys:-**

Standby For		Standby From
Wallasey	45	Wallasey 1
Cheshire	6	Cheshire 1
	<u>51</u>	<u>2</u>

**Vehicle Strength:-**

Type	Year
1 Bedford Ambulance ... ..	1950 (tenders invited for replacement)
2 Bedford Ambulances ... ..	1950 (to be replaced in September, 1958)
2 Bedford Sitting Case Vehicles ...	1952
2 Bedford Ambulances ... ..	1952
2 Bedford Ambulances ... ..	1954
1 Bedford Sitting Case Vehicle ...	1955
1 Bedford Ambulance ... ..	1956
1 Bedford Ambulance ... ..	1957
<u>12</u>	

Each vehicle is fitted with resuscitation equipment.

**PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE****Care and After-Care Committee.**

The constitution of the Committee remains unchanged and is composed of representatives of the Health Committee, the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust, the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Under our arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, Dr. E. Blackstock, Tuberculosis Medical Officer, continues to deal with contacts coming under the scheme.

The Tuberculosis Almoner has her office at the Central Chest Clinic, 42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, visiting Hospitals and the Chest Clinics at St. James' Hospital, Birkenhead, and Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey, as is necessary.

Chalets, nursing equipment, destructable sputum cups, paper handkerchiefs and free milk are supplied where required. Arrangements were made during the year for nursing equipment to be issued from the District Nurses' Headquarters, 40 Balls Road, on authorisation from the Tuberculosis Almoner.



During the year, 2179 interviews were held in the Almoner's Office, 1215 home and hospital visits were made, and 98 patients were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial help.

During the year, 31 families living under unsatisfactory housing conditions were referred by the Chest Physicians for re-housing. 10 families were provided with Corporation houses.

29 patients were provided with convalescent treatment or holidays; 19 through the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust and 10 by the Regional Hospital Board and other organisations.

Christmas festivities, food parcels, toys, extra comforts for patients at home and in hospital were provided by the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust. Cash Grants, Clothing, Day Nursery Charges and Free Milk for patients who, though in need, were not entitled to Free Milk under the Local Authority Scheme, were also provided by the Trust.

### Health Visiting.

The Health Visitors visit regularly each case of tuberculosis occurring in the Borough, and which has been notified to the Medical Officer of Health, advising as to nursing methods and the prevention of the spread of infection.

On the initial visit, details of contacts are obtained and, together with housing and family conditions, are reported to the Chest Physicians for their information.

### Occupational Therapy.

The handicraft class for out-patients continues at St. James' Hospital and teaching is given on the wards for one session each week.

Under our arrangement with the Anne Glassey Workshop, Wallasey, 15 patients attended daily for occupational therapy.

### Rehabilitation.

Many patients return to their former employers or are able to find their own employment when passed as fit for work.

75 patients were referred to the Disablement Resettlement Officers at the Ministry of Labour and 54 placings were made by the D.R.O's. 11 patients were sent to Industrial Rehabilitation Units, 3 of these patients were referred for training in suitable occupations and have since been placed in employment, 5 were placed in employment on leaving the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit, and 3 are still unemployed. Of these, two men prematurely terminated their rehabilitation.

22 patients were accepted as Ministry of Labour trainees, 11 were placed at the Anne Glassey Workshop, Wallasey; 3 at the Ministry of Labour Training Centre, Aintree; 2 at the Gregg Commercial College, Liverpool. The remaining 6 patients were placed in Residential Training Centres, as follows:-

Letchworth M.O.L. Centre	2
Denton M.O.L. Centre	1
Exeter M.O.L. Centre	1
Papworth Colony	1
M.O.L. Agricultural Course	1

### Examination of Contacts.

During the year, 113 primary notifications were received. 1344 adult contacts were asked to attend for X-ray examination and 672 child contacts were given appointments for clinical examination and skin tests.

636 adults attended for X-ray, 424 being new contacts and 212 being yearly reviews. 186 children failed and 486 attended. Of the 486 who attended, 338 received B.C.G., as follows:-

At Birkenhead Chest Clinic	303
As School Leavers	2
At other Hospitals	33

These figures show a decrease in adult examinations of 216 and an increase in children given B.C.G. Vaccination of 69, as compared with the figures for 1956.

The examination of contacts represents 8.053 per notified case of tuberculosis as against 7.9 in 1956.

The results of contact examinations are as follows:-

	Adults		Children (under 15 years)	Total
	Male	Female		
Diagnosed as Tuberculous	-	2	-	2
Diagnosed as Non-Tuberculous	188	234	486	908
	188	236	486	910

### B.C.G. Vaccination. Contacts

As is stated above, 486 children attended for clinical examination and skin tests. Of this number, 87 were found to have a positive Mantoux and were sent for X-ray examination. A certain proportion of these Mantoux positive children were found to have primary lesions, not sufficiently advanced to justify formal notification; such children are kept under close observation and examined clinically bi-monthly or at three-monthly intervals.

Of the remaining 399 children, 8 were examined only and 391 gave a negative skin test result. The parents of 53 children refused B.C.G. and 338 children were vaccinated.

As stated above, 186 children failed to attend for initial examination.

Child contacts made 2362 attendances during 1957.

13 Student Nurses received B.C.G. Vaccination.

### School Children.

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of children aged between 13 and 14 years of age continued during the year.

Parents Notified	Children Tested	Mantoux Negative	Given B.C.G Vaccination	Mantoux Positive	Number X-rayed	Chest Normal
1695	619	492	492	127	120	120

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The services of Domestic Helps are available for confinement, antenatal and post-confinement cases, and for persons who, owing to sickness, infirmity and other reasons require assistance in their homes. In many cases the service provided enables the aged, infirm and chronic sick persons to remain in their own homes.

There is a charge for the service but, where the applicant is unable to pay the full charge, it is reduced according to the financial circumstances of the case.

The Domestic Help Organiser continues to work in close co-operation with medical practitioners, the hospitals, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board and Voluntary Organisations.

During the year, the number of persons provided with domestic help was 611 against 616 in 1956, a decrease of 5. The number of new applications received during the year was 265. The slight decrease shown was mainly due to the new assessment scales which came into operation on 1st January, 1957, whereby the gross income of the household was included for assessment. This caused some cancellations in homes where there were adult sons and daughters.

During the year, 1457 visits were paid to households by the Organiser and her assistant in investigating applications and supervising the work of domestic helpers. This figure shows a slight decrease mainly due to increased visiting on the new housing estates with consequent further travelling distances.

### Cases provided with Domestic Help During the Year

Maternity	...	...	...	58
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	20
Chronic Sick	Aged and Infirm	...	...	474
Others	...	...	...	59
				<u>611</u>

### Number of Hours Worked by Domestic Helpers:-

Maternity, Illness, etc., Cases	5716½
Chronic Sick, Aged and Infirm	<u>5757½</u>
	63289½

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Psychiatric Clinic (St. Catherines Hospital Annexe)

	M	F	Total
No. of cases referred to Clinic by D.A.O's	6	5	11
No. of cases referred from Clinic to D.A.O's	23	32	55

### "No Action" Cases.

These are cases where, after investigation, it was found that action under the Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts was not necessary. Assistance which can be described as "prevention" was afforded in the most appropriate cases and they were referred to the official or voluntary bodies most likely to help them.



**After-Care Cases** discharged from mental hospitals or psychiatric clinics:-

Mr. F. Johnson, Duly Authorised Officer.

### Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

Admissions to Hospitals under the Lunacy Act 1890 (as amended).

Admissions under the Mental Treatment Act 1930 (as amended).

The Duly Authorised Officers have given assistance and advice regarding the admission of patients to private mental hospitals and private wards of mental hospitals.

Cases dealt with under the Mental Treatment Act are usually first seen by a psychiatrist.

### Hospital Admissions.

Due to an increase in the number of admissions to mental hospitals the Duly Authorised Officers find it necessary to admit patients into Lancashire Hospitals, which involves considerable travelling.

## Board of Control Circular 999.

There was a marked increase in the number of cases from areas of other Local Health Authorities detained in Birkenhead Mental Hospital, in which the Birkenhead Duly Authorised Officers undertook certification and where necessary removal to other mental hospitals.

Males	Females	Total	Total for (1956)
36	40	76	40



MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS 1913-1938

No. on Register	411
No. in Institutions	186
No. on Licence	3
No. under Guardianship	3
No. under Home Supervision	219
	<u>411</u>

	M	F	Total
Under Education Act 1944 (Sec. 57(3) )	8	8	16
Police or by Courts	0	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	9	9	18

	M	F	Total
Deaths, removals from area etc. . . . .	6	2	8
Cancellations of Notification under Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1948 (Sec 8) . . . . .	0	0	0

## Guardianship.

One other male defective who is under guardianship and is supervised by the Mental Deficiency Officer on behalf of Denbighshire County Council is in receipt of an allowance from the National Assistance Board.

Visiting of mental defectives under home supervision was carried out by the Mental Deficiency Officer. During the year 807 visits were paid and 666 reports were obtained.

### Occupation Centre.

Birkenhead Mental Defectives continue to attend the Wallasey Occupation Centre. Attendances averaged 25 daily during the year.

As in previous years a Christmas Party was held at the Centre for the children. Parents were invited to attend and examples of work done were shewn to the parents who were entertained by the children with singing and dancing. A play was performed by the children, which reflected great credit on the skill and patience of the Centre Staff in their work with these defective children.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Duties under this Act have been assigned to the Welfare Committee of the Council.

The Medical Officer of Health is in administrative control of the Welfare Department, the staff of which is housed in the Health Department Offices.

There is the utmost co-operation between the staffs and useful information about handicapped persons or the aged and infirm is exchanged between Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, Duly Authorised Officers, the Domestic Help Organiser and the Welfare Department.

It was not found necessary to take action in any case under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year under review.

### WATER SUPPLY

There are three sources of supply, the Alwen Reservoir in Denbighshire, the River Dee Abstraction Scheme and the Deep Wells at Flaybrick and Springhill situated within the Borough. With the full commissioning of the River Dee Scheme on the 25th November, 1957, the Flaybrick and Springhill Wells have now been put on reserve but can be brought into operation as demands necessitate.

The Water supply within the Borough is now a mixed Alwen/Dee water and, while slightly harder than the Alwen water, it is soft to moderately soft in character and less hard than the mixed Alwen/Wells supplies which were previously distributed within part of the statutory area. It is a pure and wholesome water and not liable to plumbo-solvent action. The Dee supply is, however, subject to taste under certain conditions and taste control and removal is now under constant supervision.

A Waterworks Laboratory has been provided on the Dee Works and a full-time Chemist and Bacteriologist is in control of the treatment and carries out regular chemical and bacteriological examination of raw water and treated water supplies in order to ensure purity of the water before going into supply. The bacteriological examinations which are made at regular intervals show in all cases complete freedom from bacteriological impurity.

All the houses in the Borough, of which there are approximately 37,431 are supplied with water direct and there are no houses supplied by means of communal stand-pipes.

Public relations are a feature of the Department and many visits to the Alwen and Dee Works have been arranged during the year and lectures and film displays given to a wide circle of Study Groups and Organisations.

## HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

I am obliged to the Chief Public Health Inspector for the following report on the work of his Section during the year

### STAFF

The establishment of Public Health Inspectors remained at full strength throughout the year. A specialist Smoke Inspector was appointed and commenced duty on the 1st August. This appointment had remained in abeyance since 1939. It was revived in order that the Council could meet its obligations under the Clean Air Act.

### INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF DWELLING HOUSES

All repairs to houses have been secured as a result of the service of notices under the Public Health Act 1936 and the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954. No notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 or the corresponding section of the Housing Act 1957, which came into force on the 1st September.

2764 complaints were received during the year. This is in addition to complaints made to the inspectors on their districts.

The number of complaints received and the number of defects remedied are lower than in previous years. This is probably partly due to the operation of the Rent Act, whereby tenants of houses have been able to have considerable repair carried out by agreement with their landlords.

No. of inspections under the Public Health Act	11522
No. of re-inspections under the Public Health Act	16090
No. of informal notices served under the Public Health Act	2102
No. of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act	861
Average number of notices outstanding	537
No. of notices complied with during the year	2239
Number of defects remedied during the year	6406



## Summary of Improvements effected:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	776
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	113
Rainwater gutters repaired	...	...	...	348
Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	169
Downspouts disconnected from drain	...	...	...	1
Walls pointed or repaired	...	...	...	339
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired	...	...	...	321
Window sashcords renewed	...	...	...	335
Firegrates repaired	...	...	...	182
Hearthstones repaired	...	...	...	2
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	237
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	34
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	611
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	236
Walls and ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired	...	...	...	321
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	35
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	32
Sink waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	...	132
Washing boilers repaired	...	...	...	3
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	294
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	...	...	...	155
Yards drained	...	...	...	9
Sufficient water supply provided	...	...	...	152
Drains constructed, altered or repaired	...	...	...	107
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	418
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	674
Tents, Vans, Sheds removed	...	...	...	9
Nuisance from animals abated	...	...	...	14
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	2
Verminous persons cleansed	...	...	...	4
Verminous premises cleansed	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	322

## Legal Proceedings.

Legal proceedings under Sec: 94, Public Health Act 1936, were instituted in 6 cases where owners had failed to comply with the requirements of abatement notices. Total costs awarded amounted to £3. 9. 0. No fines were imposed.

The Magistrates made nuisance orders in all six cases.

## Work done by Local Authority in default of owners.

The Local Authority cleansed obstructed drains at 53 houses where owners failed to comply with 48 hour notices under the provisions of Sec: 52 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954.

Repairs of an urgent nature were carried out at 3 houses under the powers conferred by Sec: 66 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954.

By agreement with, or at the request of owners, repairs of a general nature were completed at six houses under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The costs of the above work are recoverable from the responsible persons and amounted to £391. 2. 9. during the year.



HOUSING ACT 1936 Secs<sup>2</sup> 11 and 12

HOUSING ACT 1957 Sec<sup>2</sup> 17

### Dwelling Houses unfit for human habitation.

35 houses and 7 parts of buildings used as dwelling houses were reported to the Health Committee as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable expense.

15 houses were demolished during the year and 41 houses or parts of buildings subject to Closing Orders were vacated.

The number of persons displaced as a result of the operation of the above Orders was 228.

Proposals to carry out repair and improvement of 2 houses subject to Closing Orders were accepted by the Council, but work had not been started by the end of the year.

The Council made the following Orders during the year—

Demolition Orders in respect of	...	...	...	26 houses
Closing Orders in respect of	...	...	...	6 parts of buildings
Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 in respect of	...	...	...	9 houses
Accepted undertakings as to future user in respect of	...	...	...	1 house

### Clearance Areas.

On the representation of the Medical Officer of Health, clearance areas were declared by the Council under Part 111 of the Housing Acts 1936-57, in respect of the houses and buildings set out below

Clearance Area	Description of premises	Total
IVY BANK	Nos. 1 and 2 Ivy Bank	
	86 and 88 Brook Street	4
SOMERVILLE STREET	Nos. 40, 42 and 44 Somerville Street	3
ST. ANNE STREET NO. 2	Nos. 140, 142, 144, 146, 148 and 150 St. Anne Street	6
LIVINGSTONE STREET	Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 Livingstone Street	9
WOOD STREET	Nos. 46, 48, 54, 56 and 58 Cathcart Street	
	Nos. 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228 and 230 Brook Street	
	Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 Napier Street	
	Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 Charles Street	
	Nos. 231, 233 and 235 Cleveland Street	
	Nos. 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, and 59 Cathcart Street	

WOOD STREET (Continued)	Nos: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, and 64 Morpeth Buildings	129
	Nos: 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 122 and 124 Wood Street	
	Nos: 2, 4, 6 and 8 Watson Street	
	Nos: 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, and 210 Brook Street	
OLD BIDSTON ROAD	Nos: 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85 and 87 Old Bidston Road	19
RUSSELL STREET	Nos: 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 Russell Street	
	Nos: 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114 and 116 Brook Street	18
SIDNEY ROAD	Nos: 23, 25, 25A, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, and 55 Sidney Road	
	Nos: 1, 2, 3 and 4 Park View	22
APPLE GROVE	Nos: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 Apple Grove	21
PAYSON STREET	Nos: 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 31, 33, 39, 41, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 2, 2a, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, and 62 Payson Street	
	Nos: 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203 and 205 St. Anne Street	101
	Nos: 99, 101, 103, 105, and 107 Livingstone Street	
	Nos: 183, 183a, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226 and 228 Beckwith Street	
	No: 4 Trinity Street	
	Nos: 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94 and 96 Vittoria Street	
TOTALS: Dwellings		327
Derelict Buildings		4
Other Building		1
		332

During the year the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the following areas:-

Roberts Street Clearance Area		without modification
Vine Street	VP	VP
Brook Street	VP	VP
Queensbury Street	VP	VP
Ivy Bank	VP	VP
		with modifications affecting two houses. without modification

Somerville Street Clearance Area  
St. Anne Street No 2 " "

without modification  
No. 148 excluded as being  
already subject to a  
Closing Order.  
without modification.

Livingstone Street " "

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

	1920 Act	1954 Act
Number of applications for CERTIFICATES of DISREPAIR	-	8
Number of applications withdrawn	-	1
Number of certificates granted	-	6
Number of certificates refused (Act repealed)	-	1
Number of applications for REVOCATION of Certificates	-	9
Number of revocations granted	-	9
Number of revocations refused	-	Nil

### Rent Act, 1957.

This Act came into force on the 6th July, 1957 and superseded the 1954 Act. Certificates of Disrepair under the old Act are deemed to be certificates under the new Act.

The procedure to be followed by tenant, landlord and local authority is more complicated than the 1954 Act and the department consequently has devoted a considerable amount of time dealing with the numerous enquiries, applications and inspections, which have arisen.

Essentially the Act is designed to enable landlord and tenant to reach agreement, if possible, and in the main this appears to have happened.

There has, however, been a number of cases in which this has not occurred, and applications have been made for certificates of disrepair.

Details are set out below:-

#### Part 1 - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

1.) (a)	Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	230
(b)	Number of applications for certificates withdrawn or void	...	...	...	8
(c)	Number of applications for Certificates awaiting consideration	...	...	...	16
2.)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	None
3.)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	206
(a)	in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	135
(b)	in respect of all defects	...	...	...	71
4.) (a)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	161
(b)	Number of premises where work was completed before expiry of 'J' Form	...	...	...	1
5.) (a)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of Forms 'J' not yet expired	...	...	...	8
6.)	Number of Certificates issued	...	...	...	36



## Part 2 - Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

7.) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates . . . . .	19
8.) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates . . .	7
9.) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection . . . . .	2
10.) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority . . . . .	14

## Common Lodging Houses.

Two applications were received from persons to be registered as keepers of Common Lodging Houses. The first was granted but the second was deferred until the premises had been put into a satisfactory state. This applicant later cancelled his application as he could not carry out the necessary work.

At the end of the year there were 6 common lodging houses providing accommodation for 241 men. There is no accommodation for women.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

## Factories.

A full time Smoke Inspector was appointed on the 1st August, 1957, and since then regular routine observations of all factories have been made, and a survey of fuel burning appliances is being made. As a result of this work a number of warning and advisory letters have been sent to offenders. In general, industry has co-operated very well to the department's suggestions and this has meant the abolition of smoke from a considerable number of chimneys which formerly were a continual source of smoke nuisance, and some managements have expressed their appreciation of the help given by the department. Other factories are at present modifying or replacing their existing plant and the coming year should show good results.

A few plants with bad records are due to be closed down in two or three years time, and replaced by other means of power, but as considerable expenditure would be required to put matters right, the problem is made more difficult for the interim period. In one case negotiations are in progress to see if other means of power supply can be obtained at an early date and the present plant closed down much earlier than originally scheduled.

Supplies of the right kind of fuel for some plants are difficult or unobtainable within this area, but substitute fuels have in a considerable number of cases been quite successfully used.

Number of complaints received	15
Number of smoke observations made	942
Number of visits to factories	302
Number of other visits	57
Number of warning or advisory letters sent	40



## Improvements

Conversion from solid fuel to oil	...	...	...	4
Conversion from Coal to coke	...	...	...	25
Conversion from woodwaste to coke	...	...	...	1
Chimneys raised	...	...	...	3
Improved type of mechanical stokers installed	...	...	...	5
Increased boiler power or load reduced	...	...	...	1
Reconstructed or improved furnaces	...	...	...	4
Improved types of boiler installed	...	...	...	1
Draught gauges fitted	...	...	...	1
Steam flow meters fitted	...	...	...	1
C.O. <sub>2</sub> recorders fitted	...	...	...	1
Inefficient plant dismantled	...	...	...	1

## Shipping.

Considerable smoke emissions come from vessels in the local docks from time to time, and particularly the smaller hand fired bituminous coal burning vessels. The larger vessels are now mainly oil fired or diesel engined but occasionally cause offence either by lack of sufficient care or by working the plants improperly to facilitate repairs and save delay to the vessels. The smaller vessels are gradually being replaced by new oil fired and diesel engined vessels or converted from hand firing to oil firing.

It will take many years to deal with them all and for some older vessels conversion may not be an economic proposition. The only real cure however, lies in such conversion or the use of smokeless fuel such as Welsh steam coal which is in short supply.

As the vessels are within the Port Health Area it is the duty of that Authority to deal with them, but the Smoke Inspector attends to any really bad offenders, that are within the local boundary, by visiting and advising on the problem.

## Railways.

Coal fired locomotives are bad offenders but until the 1st June, 1958, under the Clean Air Act, it is not within the power of the department to take formal action for excessive smoke emission. The Inspector has on occasion spoken to drivers and firemen about excessive smoke emissions, and there appears to be some improvement. The real remedy is of course the electrification of the railways, or the replacement of coal fired locomotives with diesel driven types, and while progress is being made, it will necessarily be a long time before the work is completed. Adequate supplies of Welsh steam coal would be a great help, but it is unlikely that supplies could be obtained locally.

## Domestic.

While individually the domestic fire may not give rise to heavy air pollution, collectively it does so. The Clean Air Act 1956 gives local authorities power to make the whole or any part of their area a smoke control area, but until the 1st June, 1958 the department has no other control of domestic smoke, and even then improvement will be mainly through smoke control areas being established.

A proposal to make the whole of the Woodchurch Estate a smoke control area was considered by the Council, and a survey of the estate will be made to ascertain the extent of alterations to

fireplaces which may be required, and the amount of smokeless fuel needed to replace the bituminous coal at present used.

#### Air Pollution Recordings.

Recently the department has operated apparatus for the measurement of suspended solids and of sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. This work ceased at the end of September.

#### New Installations notified.

During the year the plans were endorsed for five new installations.

### EXTERMINATION OF PESTS

#### Rats and Mice.

(a) **in Sewers.** All sewer manholes, except those found to be free from infestation on "test baiting", were treated twice during the year. This is in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No. of manholes baited	6130
No. of 'partial' takes recorded	398
No. of 'complete' takes recorded	1569
No. of manholes 'test baited'	2980

#### (b) in surface Premises.

No. of premises inspected	741
No. of premises found to be infested with rats or mice	461
No. of treatments by rodent operator	299
Total number of visits by rodent operator	1163
Total number of visits by Public Health Inspectors	119

#### Insect Pests.

No. of houses involved	55
No. of rooms treated	137
Other premises	Nil
Vermineous articles treated	1
Vermineous persons cleansed	4

A nominal charge is made for this work.

7 occupiers of 16 premises retain the services of the rodent operator to make regular visits to their premises throughout the year to keep them free from rats, mice and insect pests.

#### Disinfection.

4 rooms in 3 houses were disinfected during the year.

Arrangements were made for the disinfection of 5 lots of bedding.

### BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1881. Section 90 -

#### PIG KEEPING

2 applications for permission to keep pigs were received. One was refused on the grounds of too close proximity to houses. In the second case the applicant did not in fact establish a piggery.

There are now 38 pig-keepers in the Borough, most of whom keep one or two pigs for part of the year only.

# **BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1930 - Section 68 CARAVANS etc ,**

No applications to place caravans on land for living purposes were received this year.

3 caravans were occupied without permission having been sought. After several representations had been made, these caravans were removed.

## **THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS AND CINEMAS**

41 visits were made during the year. These premises are well conducted and defects speedily remedied by the proprietors.

## **PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933**

The department is responsible for the issue of licences to persons, other than pharmacists, who sell by retail those poisons set out in Part II of the Poisons List.

New licences issued during the year ...	...	6
Licences renewed during the year ...	....	181
Change of address ...	...	Nil
No. of visits to shops ...	...	193

## **THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951**

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act the under-mentioned premises have been included in the Statutory Register

Premises licensed for the manufacture and storage of Rag Flock ...	...	1
Premises licensed for the manufacture and storage of layered flock and woollen felting ...	...	1
Premises registered for the manufacture of new upholstery ...	...	5

15 visits of inspection were made and the undermentioned samples were submitted to the prescribed analysts for analysis:-

	Passed	Failed	Total
Rag Flock ...	2	"	2
Kapok Mixture ...	1	"	1
Coir Fibre ...	2	"	2
Curled Fibre ...	1	"	1
Cotton Felt ...	1	"	1
Cotton Mill Puffs ...	1	"	1
Feathers ...	1	"	1
	<u>9</u>		<u>9</u>

## **PRIVATE REFUSE TIPS**

Several complaints were received that a private refuse tip had become infested with insects and that the infestation had spread to houses nearby causing a very serious nuisance to the occupiers. Such infestations are difficult to eradicate and by the time complaints are received, the infestation has usually become established. There are no bye-laws in force regulating the method of tipping and control is, therefore, very difficult.



## OFFENSIVE TRADES

No applications for the establishment of new trades were received

Some complaints of offensive effluvia from a fat melting factory were made during the year. Experiments in treating the fumes so as to render them innocuous were still in progress at the end of the year and it is felt that there has been some measure of success.

### THE BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1954

#### Register of Barbers and Hairdressers.

New registrations during the year ... ..	7
Number on register at end of year ... ..	128
Number of visits to hairdressers premises	150

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948 PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	72	16	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	462	165	23	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	23	32	-	-
TOTAL	557	213	23	-

#### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	-	3	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) -	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	21	14	-	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	26	19	-	6	-



## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Seventeen outworkers were included in the list required by Sec. 110(1)(c) - five in the making, etc., of wearing apparel and twelve in curtains and furniture hangings. There were no prosecutions under Sections 110 or 111.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The regular supervision and sampling control of milk has been mainly directed at the pasteurising and bottling plants within the Borough. An appropriate number of samples have also been taken from milk being sold in the Borough, but originating from other areas. As will be seen from the details of the samples given later, the excellent record of the past years has been maintained.

In previous years comment has been made on the difficulties experienced by the wholesale depots in dealing with consignments of milk received, which they find to be below the standards of composition. This year, because of the improved supply position, it has been possible in a few cases, for milk to be rejected when it has not been of the required standard without necessarily being adulterated. The position should be further improved when the Milk Marketing Board's butter-fat testing scheme is in full operation. This scheme penalises the worst producers, and is an effort to halt the decline in the compositional quality of milk during the past 30 years, but unfortunately does not deal with the non-fatty solid content of milk which is of the greatest importance nutritionally.

The presence of foreign matter in milk bottles still continues to be a source of anxiety to the trade and the department. During the year 25 complaints were received regarding foreign objects in milk, 21 of these being in respect of school milk. The number of complaints from schools was higher than last year, but to keep the matter in perspective it should be realised that 4,355,708 bottles of milk were delivered to Birkenhead schools in the year. Fragments of glass were found in 13 bottles, old foil caps in 2 bottles and miscellaneous foreign matter in 5 bottles. Of the complaints received about the general milk supply, 3 concerned dirty bottles and in the other case a piece of the filling machinery was found in the bottle.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of 10 cases where the milk contained glass or other foreign matter and in 4 cases where the milk was in dirty bottles. Fines totalling £72. 0. 0. were imposed in 11 cases and in 3 cases an absolute discharge given on payment of costs.

The numbers of registered dairies and dairymen and of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are:-

No. of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	43
No. of registered dairymen	...	...	...	...	216
Dealers Licences to sell 'Pasteurised' Milk	...	...	...	...	184
Dealers Licences to sell 'Tuberculin Tested' Milk	...	...	...	...	100
Dealers Licences to sell 'Sterilised' Milk	...	...	...	...	121
Processor's Licences to pasteurise milk	...	...	...	...	2
Number of visits to dairymen's premises	...	...	...	...	276

**Bacteriological examination of milk.**

Samples were submitted with the following results:-

	Passed	Failed	Total
Pasteurised milk	89	-	89
Tuberculin Tested milk	61	1	62
Sterilised Milk	46	-	46
	<u>196</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>197</u>

The 1 sample which failed did not pass the methylene blue test. This was processed outside the Borough.

**Chemical Analysis of Milk.**

207 samples of milk were submitted for analysis:-

187 samples were reported as genuine.

7 samples were reported as deficient of fat.

3 samples were reported as deficient of fat and naturally deficient of non-fatty solids.

10 samples were reported as containing added water.

Of the genuine samples 20 were naturally deficient of non-fatty solids.

All the samples adversely reported upon were taken in the course of delivery to the wholesale dairies.

The 7 samples of milk deficient in fat were from 6 farmers. In all cases the fat content of milk in other churns of the same consignment made up for the deficiency so that the bulked milk of each farmer was satisfactory.

The 3 samples deficient in fat and naturally deficient in non-fatty solids were from 3 farmers. The bulked milk in all cases was satisfactory in fat content and non-fatty solids.

The 2 cases where the bulked milk was naturally deficient in non-fatty solids were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Department in an effort to improve the quality.

The 10 samples containing added water were from 2 farmers, and legal proceedings were instituted, but the cases were dismissed when it was proved that the summonses were not served within the time limits laid down in the Food and Drugs Act.

**ICE CREAM**

The high standard of cleanliness and quality set during the previous years has been maintained. Routine inspection and sampling has shown that the Regulations governing the manufacture and handling of ice cream are being fully implemented by the trade so that ice cream can fairly be regarded as a nutritive and hygienic commodity.

Details of the premises retained on the Statutory Register are as follows:-

Premises registered for the manufacture of Pasteurised Ice Cream ...	14
Premises registered for the manufacture of Cold Mix Ice Cream ...	14
Premises registered for the manufacture of Lolly Ices only	10

Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and/or Lolly Ices. 529  
 Number of visits paid to premises .. 146

There are a number of premises included in the above figures from the register, at which the manufacture of ice cream is not very regular or frequent. The tendency of late years has been for retailers to handle supplies from wholesale manufacturers and supplement these if required, during peak periods of consumption, with ice cream of their own manufacture.

45 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for Bacteriological analysis during the year and reported upon as follows:-

Samples of Ice Cream placed in Grade				I	...	37
99	99	99	99	II	...	6
99	99	99	99	III	...	2
99	99	99	99	IV	...	—
						<hr/> 45 <hr/>

### Bacteriological examination of Other Foods

Once again particular attention has been paid to the state of the raw materials used in the manufacture of meat products. A total of 291 samples of manufacturing meat and offal were submitted to the laboratory. The results were satisfactory.

### FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and stalls, etc., apparatus and equipment, the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and their clothing, the action to be taken where they suffer from or are carriers of certain infections, the construction of food premises, the repair and maintenance of food premises, stalls, vehicles, etc., the facilities to be provided and the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit disease are to be kept in food premises.

The response to the regulations has been that the larger food preparing premises, cafes and canteens, retail shops and the multiple retail shops have, if they were not up to the required standard, had the necessary improvements carried out, the managements being fully aware of their responsibilities. The position with regard to the smaller cafes and retail shops is, in the majority of cases, very different, the proprietors waiting for an Inspector from the department to call, inspect the premises and give him notice of the necessary improvements which must be carried out, before any attempt is made to comply with the requirements of the regulations.



During the course of the year a total of 1,253 inspections and 824 re-inspections were made, 194 notices were served and 115 verbal notices were given; the notices contained 2,286 items. Approximately 2/3rds of these notices have been complied with, details of these figures can be seen in the summary of notices and defects remedied.

In no case has a refusal to comply with a notice been received, but in some cases considerable time is being taken before notices are being complied with and it would appear in some instances that it may be necessary to institute legal proceedings.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	94
Butchers manufacturing sausages and cooked meats	...	...	...	...	79
Cooked meat manufacturers	...	...	...	...	12
Pickle manufacturer	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL					186

Premises registered under Sections 102 and 103 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954 -

Food Hawkers and their premises (Sec:102)	13
Vendors of shell fish and their premises (Sec:103)	33
Notification of new food premises (Sec:101)	2

#### Summary of Inspections and Defects remedied

	Cafes and Canteens	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Shops	Totals
No. of premises ...	169	186	43	-	-
No. of Inspections ...	238	174	15	826	1253
No. of Re-Inspections	264	53	1	506	824
<b>Defects remedied</b>					
External structural defects ...	16	1	-	11	28
Drains cleansed, altered or relaid ...	7	5	-	3	15
Water closet, repaired or limewashed ...	13	-	-	45	58
Sanitary accommodation separated from food room	-	-	-	1	1
Walls, repaired, cleansed or re-decorated ...	202	14	-	314	530



	Cafes and Canteens	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Shops	Totals
Ceilings repaired, cleansed or re-decorated ..	54	-	-	93	147
Floors and staircases repaired or cleansed ..	14	-	-	30	44
Doors and windows repaired cleansed or redecorated ..	6	-	-	32	38
Ventilation or artificial lighting provided ...	4	-	-	9	13
Dirty premises cleansed ..	5	-	-	8	13
Cleanliness of utensils improved ...	4	-	-	-	4
Wash-hand basins provided ..	14	2	-	51	67
Sinks provided or renewed ..	7	-	-	18	25
Hot or cold water supply provided ...	40	4	-	144	188
Waste pipes repaired ..	2	1	-	4	7
Towels, soap or nail brush provided ...	16	-	-	10	26
Notices regarding the washing of hands ...	5	1	-	16	22
Cloakroom or locker accommodation for clothes ..	2	-	-	29	31
First aid equipment provided ...	3	-	-	17	20
Protection from contamination of food ..	5	3	-	34	42
Additional dust bins provided ...	4	-	-	1	5
Rat or mice infestations eradicated ...	1	-	-	-	1
	424	31	-	870	1325

#### Shops Act, 1950.

385 Inspections and 15 re-inspections were made under this Act.

3 Notices were served and these notices are outstanding.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

##### Analysis of Food (other than Milk)

190 samples of various types of food and drugs (in addition to 207 samples of milk previously referred to) were obtained and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst - Tennyson Harris, Esq., Ph.C., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., whose help and co-operation are gratefully acknowledged.

A sample of minced beef was found to contain 195 parts per million of sulphur dioxide. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £5. 0s. 0d. was imposed.

A sample of beef sausages containing preservative was sold without a notice to that effect being exhibited. Legal proceedings were instituted, but the summons was withdrawn, as it was not served within the stipulated time.

A sample of Apple Green colouring contained 80 p.p. million of Lead. All stocks of this article were withdrawn and the ingredients changed.

A sample of Non-brewed condiment was slightly deficient in Acetic acid. The manufacturer was cautioned.

A sample of Marmalade was reported as being incorrectly labelled. The manufacturer's attention was drawn to this offence and the label changed.

Two samples reported against were in connection with complaints regarding unsound foods.

#### Unsound Food.

The inspection of food in shops, warehouses, canteens, etc., was carried out by all the public health inspectors. All condemned food was collected and disposed of - mainly by tipping on the Corporation tip - under supervision. The following list shows the types and quantities of food dealt with.

#### Canned and Bottled Goods:-

Meat	...	...	...	2093	
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	6143	
Fish	...	...	...	562	
Soup	...	...	...	717	
Milk	...	...	...	561	and 1060 pints
Preserves	...	...	...	318	
Puddings	...	...	...	147	
Bacon	...	...	...	58	lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	2	lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	4½	lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	76	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	443	lbs.
Chitterlings	...	...	...	112	lbs.
Coffee	...	...	...	¾	lb.
Cream	...	...	...	14¾	lbs.
Jelly	...	...	...	23	packets
Marzipan	...	...	...	111	lbs.
Meat Paste	...	...	...	1	lb.
Pickles and sauces	...	...	...	13	lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	...	16	cwts.
Ravioli	...	...	...	10	lbs.

#### Food Complaints.

15 complaints were received regarding food alleged to be unfit for consumption. These all alleged that some foreign object or substance was found in the food.

All cases were investigated with the manufacturers and in the majority of cases some fault in the processing or storage was indicated. However, in some cases, doubt arose as to whether the foreign object had actually been in the food at the time of purchase.

For example, a beetle was alleged to have been found in a can of peas. The manufacturers stated that the peas had been canned in the summer of 1956, but the Analyst reported that the condition of the beetle indicated that death had occurred more recently.

In a complaint of glass in a tin of steak and onions, the glass was found after the food had been cooked in a glass dish.

In a complaint of "insect eggs" in a can of Grapefruit, the "eggs" were reported by the Analyst as crystals of Hesperidin, a natural constituent of grapefruit.

Bread was the commodity giving rise to the largest number of complaints, 4 in all.

A summons was issued in respect of a loaf containing dirt and grease, and a fine of £10. 0s. 0d. was imposed.

The other cases were in respect of objects adhering to the outside of loaves, and were due to inadequate care during baking. The manufacturers were cautioned.

The other complaints received were: a bottle of Orange Drink containing an old foil cap; toffee containing insect appendages, a flagon of cider containing cardboard; a steak and kidney pie containing animal hair; a brass screw in a tin of plums; an aluminium rivet in a packet of breakfast cereal; mould on a meat pie and insect larvae in a block of chocolate. The manufacturers were cautioned in each case.

### MEAT INSPECTION

This section of the report details the work carried out by the Veterinary Officer and the staff of Meat Inspectors.

During the year 171,715 animals were slaughtered in the Borough:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1957	56,724	284	107,714	6,993

This shows a decrease of 30,611 animals compared with 1956, no doubt due to the increased number of live animals exported to the Continent. Other slaughtering centres will show a similar trend. Nevertheless, the figures for 1957 show an increase over 1955 of 8,552 animals.

All animals slaughtered were subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection by the Veterinary Officer and the Meat Inspectors.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	56724	284	107714	6993	Nil
Number inspected	56724	284	107714	6993	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	49	3	59	42	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6686	12	10105	480	-



	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	11.8	4.2	9.4	7.3	-
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	96	Nil	Nil	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7730	Nil	Nil	75	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.7	Nil	Nil	1.1	-
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Generalised and totally condemned	3	Nil	2 (C Ovis)	Nil	-

#### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Meat is sent all over the country. Slaughtering is carried out at two establishments in Birkenhead, namely, Tranmere Public Abattoir and Woodside Lairage (Foreign Animals Landing Wharf). Operations have continued practically seven days a week and this, as in former years, places a heavy burden on the meat inspection staff. No improvement in the number of hours worked by the meat inspection staff was seen, although the total slaughtering was less than last year.

In the course of the year quite a fair amount of meat from outside sources was received in the depot at Tranmere Abattoir, whilst animals were also slaughtered on farms for emergency reasons and the carcasses brought in. All meat was inspected by inspectors in accordance with Memo 3/Meat. Where a certificate of inspection from another Authority accompanied the meat, no further inspection was necessary. As in former years, cattle reactors to the tuberculin test were also sent in to Tranmere Abattoir for slaughter.

There were still signs of export of fresh-killed beef to the continent - some 582 choice hindquarters being consigned on licence mostly to France and Italy.

Check inspections of imported meat received in the depots were carried out throughout the year. As in previous years, bone taint and decomposition were the chief causes of condemnation. In all, 158 visits were paid to the depots during the year and it was found



that 11 cwts. of beef and mutton, 12 tins of corned beef, 106-lbs. boiled ham (tinned), 8 fowls and 1 goose were unfit for human consumption.

The standard of cleanliness of the vans used in the transport of meat was generally satisfactory. In a few cases verbal representations concerning minor improvements resulted in quick rectification.

**Export of Meat Products.** - During the year, the Veterinary Officer issued export licences to Gut-Scraping firms for 216 tierces (42 gallon casks) and 44 barrels of beef rounds, middles, etc., for shipment to most West European countries. It was necessary to visit the factories to carry out token inspections of products as to cleanliness and suitability before issuing the accompanying licences.

**Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933-1954.** - 73 renewals of licences and 7 new licences were granted to butchers and others employed in the Borough. There were no prosecutions and no cautions were necessary.

**Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.** - Work under this Act has involved -

(1) The granting to owners of licences for the movement of animals according to the disease or condition. A good deal of time is spent in issuing licences during periods of restriction.

(2) **Foot & Mouth Disease.** Owing to an outbreak in Liverpool Stanley Market towards the end of the year, Birkenhead was involved in the accompanying restrictions. The immediate effect was to increase enormously the number of livestock slaughtered at Woodside Lairage and Tranmere Abattoir - the Liverpool Abattoir being closed. Tranmere Abattoir was used continuously to capacity every day and it was most difficult to prevent overcrowding, and it had to be arranged that no stock was held over 48 hours prior to slaughter. It was found necessary to issue movement licences according to the dates of the auction and the distances from Birkenhead so that, to all intents and purposes, there would be a steady flow of throughput to avoid unmanageable congestion. It was not possible to use temporarily out-of-work slaughtermen from Liverpool to help in the overflow lest further infection be carried on their persons or equipment.

(3) The routine inspection of dairy cows contained in 18 dairy herds within the Borough. There were no cases of tuberculosis diagnosed, consequently no supervision of disinfection needed.

(4) Visits to Taylor Street Cattle Sidings were made frequently to supervise live animals passing through per

rail; to see that cruelty was avoided; to prevent, if possible, sick animals from travelling further, and to take precautions against suspected anthrax. Fortunately only 3 animals were found dead in trucks and blood smears were negative for anthrax.

(5) Visits to all farms in connection with the Warble Fly campaign.

(6) Visits to premises containing store pigs and inspecting same in order to ascertain their health and visible freedom from Swine Fever. 57 visits were paid during the year and 421 pigs were seen.

(7) Visits to some local farms in connection with sheep dipping.

(8) Under the Fowl Pest Order, frequent visits to Live Poultry Dealers and Breeders, and to the Market to ascertain that conditions were satisfactory. There were no contraventions in the Borough.

(9) Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957. This Order, which deals with the compulsory boiling of unboiled waste food, including meat, before feeding to certain animals or to poultry, came into operation in July, 1957. Applications for licensing of waste food sterilisation plant from nine persons (or firms) were granted by the Council following visits and the inspection of plant, utensils, buildings, etc., concerned.

#### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

15 premises were inspected frequently. There was a careful scrutiny of the meat supplied to the shops for retailment in animal feeding. There were no contraventions.

#### **Registration of Premises used for the Sale, etc., of Animal Feeding Meat (Birkenhead Corporation, Act, 1954, Section 98).**

No new applications for registration were received during the year.